

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:  
validating configuration information specified by at least one user for a plurality of business sites, the configuration information pertaining to alert messages to be sent to a plurality of destinations via a plurality of notification methods, the configuration information defining groups of destinations from the plurality of destinations to facilitate transmission of alert messages to destinations in a group via a single command ~~being specified by at least one user for a plurality of business sites;~~  
storing the validated configuration information concerning the plurality of business sites in a database, wherein the database associates each of the plurality of destinations with one or more of the plurality of notification methods, and further associates each destination group with one or more of the plurality of the notification methods;  
extracting at least a subset of the configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of the plurality of business sites; and  
generating a text-based configuration file containing the extracted configuration information for the one of the plurality of business sites.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes configuration keyword information recognizable by a messaging application.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the database is a relational database.
4. Canceled.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
configuring a messaging application using the configuration file.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising periodically  
generating additional text-based configuration files according to a schedule.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the database includes  
configuration information for the plurality of business sites across a plurality of  
networks.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information is  
used by at least one messaging application to transmit the alert messages to the plurality  
of destinations.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a  
contact.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information  
includes a contact notification method.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a  
method type.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a  
contact group.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a contact group member.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a schedule.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a strategy.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a pager type.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: creating at least one include file for a plurality of sections within the configuration file.
18. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
compiling the configuration file into a compiled file at a later time.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
updating the configuration information stored in the database through a portal.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the extracting is performed over a secure communication pathway.
21. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform a method comprising:

validating configuration information specified by at least one user for a plurality of business sites, the configuration information pertaining to alert messages to be sent to a plurality of destinations via a plurality of notification methods, the configuration information defining groups of destinations from the plurality of destinations to facilitate transmission of alert messages to destinations in a group via a single command ~~being specified by at least one user for a plurality of business sites;~~

storing the validated configuration information concerning the plurality of business sites in a database, wherein the database associates each of the plurality of destinations with one or more of the plurality of notification methods, and further associates each destination group with one or more of the plurality of the notification methods;

extracting at least a subset of the configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of the plurality of business sites; and generating a text-based configuration file containing the extracted configuration information for the one of the plurality of business sites.

22. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the configuration information includes configuration keyword information recognizable by a messaging application.
23. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the database is a relational database.
24. Canceled.

25. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises configuring a messaging application using the configuration file.
26. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the generating of the text-based configuration file is performed periodically according to a schedule.
27. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the database includes configuration information for the plurality of business sites across a plurality of networks.
28. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the configuration information is used by at least one messaging application to transmit the alert messages to the plurality of destinations.
29. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the configuration information includes a set of one or more contacts, contact notification methods, method types, contact groups, contact group members, schedules, strategies, and pager type.
30. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises: creating at least one include file for a plurality of sections within the configuration file.
31. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises:  
compiling the configuration file into a compiled file at a later time.

32. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises:  
updating the configuration information stored in the database through a portal.
33. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the receiving is performed over a secure communication pathway.
34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a database to store configuration information pertaining to alert messages to be sent to a plurality of destinations via a plurality of notification methods, the configuration information being specified by at least one user for a plurality of business sites, the configuration information defining groups of destinations from the plurality of destinations to facilitate transmission of alert messages to destinations in a group via a single command, the database associating each of the plurality of destinations with one or more of the plurality of notification methods, and further associating each destination group with one or more of the plurality of the notification methods; and  
a configuration generator to validate the configuration information to be saved in the database, to extract at least a subset of the configuration information over a communication pathway from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of the plurality of business sites, and to generate at least one text-based configuration file including the extracted configuration information for the one of the plurality of business sites.
35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:  
a portal to provide access to a user to update the configuration information.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the configuration information includes configuration keyword information recognizable by a messaging application.
37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the configuration information includes a set of one or more contacts, contact notification methods, method types, contact groups, contact group members, schedules, strategies, and pager type.
38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the database is a relational database.
39. Canceled.
40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:  
a compiler to generate a binary configuration file after generation of the configuration file.
41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the generation of the binary configuration file is executed from a scheduling tool.
42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the scheduling tool is at least one from a group consisting of a windows scheduler or a unix cron.
43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the configuration generator is further to generate at least one include file for a plurality of sections within the configuration file.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the communication pathway is a secure communication pathway.
45. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a storage device having a database to store configuration information pertaining to alert messages to be sent to a plurality of destinations via a plurality of notification methods, the configuration information being specified by at least one user for a plurality of business sites, the configuration information defining groups of destinations from the plurality of destinations to facilitate transmission of alert messages to destinations in a group via a single command, the database associating each of the plurality of destinations with one or more of the plurality of notification methods, and further associating each destination group with one or more of the plurality of the notification methods; and  
a processor coupled with the storage device over a communications pathway, the processor to validate the configuration information to be saved in the database, to extract at least a subset of the configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of the plurality of business sites, and to generate at least one text-based configuration file including the extracted configuration information for the one of the plurality of business sites.
46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the configuration information includes configuration keyword information recognizable by a messaging application.



47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the configuration information includes a set of one or more contacts, contact notification methods, contact groups, schedules, strategies, and pager type.
48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the storage device is a relational database.
49. Canceled.
50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:  
a compiler to generate a binary configuration file after generation of the configuration file.
51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the generation of the binary configuration file is executed from a scheduling tool.
52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the scheduling tool is one from a group consisting of a windows scheduler or a unix cron.
53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the processor is further to generate at least one include file for a plurality of sections within the configuration file.
54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the communication pathway is a secure communications pathway.
- 55-56. (Not Entered)

57. Canceled.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein validating configuration information comprises:  
performing at least one of a referential check, a value validation check and a typographical error check.